

Addicted to Attention Acts 8:9-25

Message to Conversation Guide

Acts 8:9-25

9 But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. 10 They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great." 11 And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. 12 But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.

14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, 15 who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. 18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, 19 saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." 20 But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! 21 You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. 22 Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. 23 For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity." 24 And Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

25 Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans. *ESV*

Discussion Questions

1. Simon, because of his ability to do magic, was very, very famous. He was known not only in the particular city in Samaria that he lived in but the region of Samaria as well. What phrases in the texts below underscore Simon's fame?

Acts 8:9

9 But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic **in the city and amazed the people of Samaria**, *ESV*

Acts 8:10

10 They all paid attention to him, **from the least to the greatest**, *ESV*

2. Share with the group some of the famous people that you have met. Who is the most famous person you have ever met?
3. The Key thing about Simon is that he craved attention. Read **Acts 8:10, 11** and underline the phrase that mentions that Simon got attention from the people of Samaria.

Acts 8:10-11

10 *They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great."* 11 *And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic.*

4. The method by which Simon got attention was his magic. The people clamored about Simon because his magic feats. Everyone has a tool to get attention discuss Simon's tool, magic, and the other possible attention tools listed below.

- *Physical attractiveness*
- *Intelligence*
- *Financial success*
- *Humor*
- *Personal crisis (Pity is the lowest form of attention but it is attention!)*
- *Being Overbearing or loud*

5. Philip and the ministry of the Apostles stole the attention of the people away from Simon. How did he react to this according to the story in **Acts 8:9-25**?

6. Discuss the signs below of attention addiction:

- *You don't feel good unless people are focused on you.*
- *You get down if others aren't constantly complimenting you.*
- *When other people get applause and accolades it makes you jealous.*
- *When the spotlight isn't on you - you come up with ways to regain people's attention.*

7. What did Simon do to try to get renewed power over the people to regain their attention? Study the verses below to find clues.

Acts 8:18-19

18 *Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, 19 saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."*

